SIMSBURY
March
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PAID 12½

Mr Amos A. Phelps

Andover

Mass.

S. J. Bodwell
March 1829.

Sabbath eve.
Again I seat myself to continue my letter. I was pleased to remember last Thursday—found a profitable season while waiting on God. Oh that the Great Head of the Church would appear to bless those institutions so intimately connected with the advancement of his kingdom. May he cast into these fountains the seeds of his rich Grace that streams may issue forth which shall make glad the city and temple of our God.— You probably have received a letter from your Mother since my return as she told she should write soon. Oh our heavenly Father is indeed doing a good work in F. Our cousin Mary is among the happy subjects— She was rejoicing with much trembling when I left her. Now you can address her as dear sister and hear her declare what God has done for her soul. The work is going on with increasing interest and we trust and hope that God has many souls in that place."— But Oh poor Simsbury is left a desart waste.— I would not however "despise t[illegible] day of small things."— There are some visible tokens for good— a person has this day been added to the Church and some few hoping of late whilst others are anxiously enquiring the way to Zion We feel encouraged to hope the day is not far distant when in view of the great number of hopeful converts we shall exclaim "Who are these that fly as clouds and as doves to their windows." Let me tell you the Church here seem to be awaking as it were from a dead sleep and deeply feel their awful distance from their God We wait for Him with earnest longings of the mind and Oh may he soon appear with his salvation. Pray for us and Oh pray with the importunity of wrestling Jacob. Pray much for your own soul and for direction in the path of duty and sure I am you will eventually be prepared for eminent usefulness in the Church of Christ.—

I will answer your enquiry by saying no new thing has happened to me of late I am the same P.B. as when you last saw me and think I shall remain so for months and years to come.— However if you can say or do any thing which may assist me to any amendment do no fail in your duty— I am sensible there is much room for impovement. Yours in sincerity

P. Bodwell

(write soon)

The lively Miss C. returns her thanks and wishes you to accept her best respects in return in your next please give her some hints on religion.— her soul is precious sufficient for this great work." "True the work is great and the reward of a faithful minister of Christ an hundred fold. If as you now anticipate, you shall in due time engage in the great business of evangelizing the world, then your Friends can only say may the Lord prepare you for that arduous undertaking.— And we will add, that if we are favoured with right excercises of mind we shall pray the Lord of the harvest to send you where and when he pleases.— If to Africa then go,— if to Greece go,— or if to wander up and down the Mississippi, then I would most cheerfully say there may you go and spend your latest breath in publishing the dying love of a Saviour to perishing heathen. Yea and my heart responds I would go also the Lord willing.— Most gladly would I wear out in the cause of my blessed Master. But no such door seems opened for me.— Once I hoped I should, if no more have the delightful task of but washing the feet of some honoured servant of Jesus who had devoted his all to his Saviour.— But no the door is shut,— it has long been closed intimating to me that God has nothing for me to do among the heathen. I know there are many others far better qualified for that station and therefore have long silenced my ardent engagedness in that delightful but arduous employment.— I have no expectation or at least no grounds for expecting that I shall ever visit any heathen clime.— But however that may be I feel entirely reconciled to what may await me in this changing world. And however trying it may be to bid you a last adieu and take a last farewell look yet the thought that you are called to engage in evangelizing the world will at once compose me and enable me in the humble language of resignation to say "Even so Father for thus it seemeth good to be". You will hence infer that however painful may be the separation I would rejoice, yea and even pray the Lord to send you soon to labour in his vineyard. But still should it be left to my choice to say where you must labour I would say in America There are souls enough here perishing for lack of vision.

me way Miss O. [illegible] in your next please give her some hints on religion - her [illegible]

Simsbury February 24 1829

My dear Cousin A.

I now sit down to acknowledge the receipt of yours of Feb. 5th I was not at home when the mail brought it in — of course could not get it so soon. But was much rejoiced to find it on my return. I do like very much those whippings you are disposed to give me — and for two reasons, — one is they have a tendency to humble me and let me know I do not labour all I might, and the other is it makes me double my diligence to improve each passing moment to the best advantage. — And here I might mention other reasons but let these suffice. — You are at liberty therefore to chastise me when and as often as you see fit and be assured I shall love you the better I mean the love a dutiful child bears to a tender and faithful parent who for some failure in duty justly incurs the displeasure of his parent and must of necessity receive his fatherly correction. —

Amos you have indeed resorted to a broken cistern when you applied to me for counsel, or sage advice as you term it. — For altho my age might justly encourage you that I may be capable of advising those of younger years yet I must confess that I am far inferior to many who have lived perhaps not half as long, I can and will therefore just say what I would do or what course I would take were I in your situation and that is all I can say — perhaps you will here check me and say that I cannot do. — But I will try to say something if possible to cheer you in your Christian course, and encourage you along your journey towards heaven. The pleasing work which you anticipate is indeed the most interesting employment in which mortals can engage. One in which the greatest energy and activity is requisite and one in view of which, the great Apostle once exclaimed Who is